• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. XII | February 28, 1945 | No. 2

Treaty Promoters Ignore Nationwide Protests of Labor, Farmers, War Veterans

Organized labor, farmers, war veterans, speaking through authorized representatives and their national organizations with members from every state in the Union appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate during the hearings on the Mexican treaty concluded in February. They joined in protesting against ratification of the unfair and dangerous document.

For the most part, these spokesmen for about 10,000,000 Americans enrolled within their organizations were given short shift by Chairman Tom Connally and his aides on the committee. In several instances, the representatives of these great organizations were forced to appear personally, and insist that they be heard, before permission reluctantly was granted by the Chairman. They found it necessary to take this extreme step after they filed their resolutions against the treaty and had made formal application in the regular manner for an opportunity to be heard in oral protests.

Even while the spokesmen for millions of American citizens from every part of the United States were desperately

(*Continued on Page 2*)

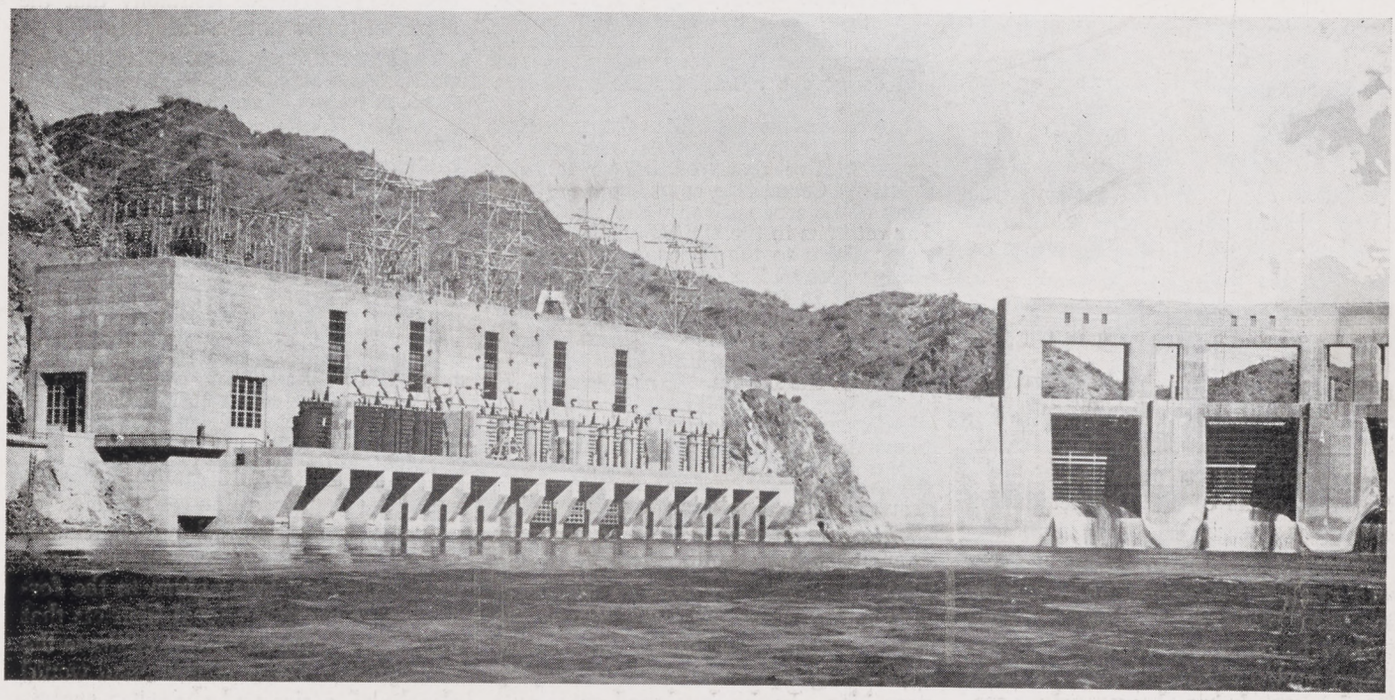
Fight Against Treaty Goes to Senate Floor

Hearings on the Mexican water treaty were concluded by Senator Tom Connally of Texas and his Foreign Relations Committee on February 22.

Two days later, on February 24, Chairman Connally called his committee into executive session, and with thousands of pages of testimony not yet printed and thus not available to committee members, the treaty was voted out. The Chairman announced the vote

(*Continued on page 7*)

Read Chairman W. P. Whitsett's Testimony Page 3



Parker Dam Power Plant on the Colorado River. This plant was made possible by the erection of Parker Dam, which, in turn, was paid for almost entirely by the Metropolitan Water District. It is another example of how Southern California communities have underwritten Colorado River development for the general welfare of the country.

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AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

Vol. XII February 28, 1945 No. 2

Sixth Report Shows Water Use Increasing

Printed copies of the District's Sixth Annual Report, received from the printer in January, were being mailed out to interested officials and citizens, and to reference libraries during February.

It is a report from General Manager Julian Hinds to the District Board of Directors and sets forth in photographs and text the progress of Colorado River Aqueduct operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1944. It also contains authoritative information on the economic and population trends on the coastal plain as they affect the water supply problem of this territory. Included as a part of the report is much historical information of permanent value.

The foreword of the report states, in part:

"Continuing industrial expansion and population growth during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943 and ending June 30, 1944 was reflected within the cities and areas of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California by an all time high in the consumption of water for industrial, domestic and municipal purposes. The increase in the average use of water throughout the District and for the entire year amounted to 50 cubic feet per second, which matched the rate of increase for the preceding year, and indicated a large population growth within the cities and areas of the District during the past two years.

"Constantly mounting demands for water in all of the population centers on the coastal plain of Southern California resulted in further depletion of underground basins which in many instances already were being dangerously overdrawn. Within the territorial limits of the District this process of local underground water depletion was remedied by drawing in ever increasing amounts upon the water supply of the Colorado River Aqueduct. In fact, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, ten of the fourteen areas constituting the District were using aqueduct water in varying quantities. In the developed areas outside the boundaries of the District, the continuing depletion of local water supplies, despite a long succession of above normal rainfall years, caused serious concern. In a number of sections study was being given to the formation of overlying local districts that would be legally eligible to annex to the Metropolitan Water District, and would also be of a size and character acceptable as annexation units by the District's Board of Directors."

Protests Ignored

(*Continued from Page* 1)

seeking to be heard against the treaty, and after many had been heard, Chairman Connally, day after day, gave out the word to the public at large that the only opposition to the Mexican treaty was coming from California. In this he even ignored the State of Nevada, officially and overwhelmingly on record against the treaty, and he ignored the expressed protests of 80 per cent of the owners of Colorado River water rights in the States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada and California.

Here are the national organizations that entered strong protests to unwise and unjust provisions of the water treaty:

American Federation of Labor (7,000,000 members). Unanimously adopted a resolution in opposition to treaty at its 1944 national convention. Authorized representative testified before Foreign Relations Committee against treaty ratification.

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (212,000 members). Its National legislative representative appeared before Foreign Relations Committee and protested ratification of treaty.

Railway Labor Executives Association (1,500,000 members). Adopted resolution opposing treaty at national meeting. Filed statement against ratification with Foreign Relations Committee.

The National Grange (900,000 members). Adopted resolution opposing treaty. Authorized representative testified in opposition to treaty before Foreign Relations Committee.

American Bar Association (representing legal profession throughout the United States). Adopted through its House of Delegates resolution condemning unsound and dangerous administrative provisions of treaty.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (representing United States war veterans). Authorized representative appeared before Foreign Relations Committee opposing the giving away of Colorado River water needed by war veterans in the United States.

Opposition to the Mexican treaty from a large part of the American Legion was expressed in testimony before the committee by John R. Quinn, a member for 18 years of the Legion's National Executive Committee and a Past National Commander of the Legion. He also introduced in the hearings telegrams from several other members of the National Executive Committee protesting ratification of the treaty.

Here are several of the organizations representing large sections of the United States that opposed the Mexican treaty:

Colorado River Water Users Conference (representing 80 per cent of the owners of water rights on the Colorado River). Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 13, 1945, the representatives of Colorado River water users in Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and California unanimously adopted resolution against treaty.

American Farm Bureaus of 11 Western States (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Montana and California). Adopted resolutions opposing treaty provisions.

Inter-Mountain Section, American Society of Civil Engineers (including Utah, and adjacent territory representing large part of Upper Colorado River Basin). Adopted resolution opposing ratification of treaty.

Here are the areas and organizations in Arizona that voiced unqualified opposition to the treaty by resolutions and witnesses who testified before the committee:

Salt River Valley Water Users Association (representing largest irrigation project in Arizona). Representative testified against treaty.

Yuma Conservation Club (membership includes the owners of most of the land in the Yuma Valley).

Gila Valley Irrigation District (one of the major irrigation districts in Arizona).

Arizona Highline Reclamation Association.

And here are the areas and large groups in Utah who urged by resolutions and by direct testimony that the Mexican treaty not be ratified:

The largest users of irrigation and domestic water supplies in Utah opposed the Mexican treaty. Their authorized spokesmen testified against the treaty before the committee. These water users in Central Utah represent more than 60 per cent of the total population of Utah. They include: The Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City; the Provo Water Users Association.

All Colorado River water users in Southwestern Utah, including: St. George and Washington Canal Company; Price Bench Canal Company; thirteen separate irrigation and canal companies, representing all of the Colorado River water users in the Virgin River with water rights dating back to 1860. These long established water rights would be made secondary to Mexican rights if the Mexican treaty is ratified.

IS AMERICA TO ABANDON ITS MORAL PRINCIPLES?
The Answer Rests with the United States Senate

A Statement By
W. P. Whitsett, Chairman, Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Made Before the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate on February 8, 1945, in Protesting Ratification of the Proposed Mexican Water Treaty

Gentlemen:

My distinguished associates, in opposing the ratification of the proposed Mexican treaty, are presenting to you the legal rights upon which our case is firmly based. They are pointing out the vast economic losses to the United States as a whole which will result from robbing the Southwestern States of water required for their defense activities and post-war development in order that Mexico may grow more cotton.

Facts Presented

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, of which I have had the honor of being Chairman since its organization in 1928, is presenting more of these facts through our General Counsel and engineering staff. In the brief time allotted me, I would like to point out one fundamental American principle involved in this treaty which might easily escape the notice of those whose time allows only a casual examination of this vital issue.

Because I know you are as much interested in the human factors involved as in the technical facts, let me sketch briefly the part played by the Metropolitan Water District, which comprises fourteen cities of Southern California, and which, with adjacent areas, have three and one-half million inhabitants.

U. S. Demanded Repayment

When Boulder Dam was a blueprint in Washington, the Government refused to appropriate the $125,000,000 for its construction until assured that the cost of the dam, plus interest on the Government money advanced, would be repaid through the sale of power and water made available by the dam. The Government demanded that this repayment be guaranteed by firm contracts. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California joined with other public and private agencies in California and entered into such contracts with the Government, and these communities thus bound themselves to pay for sufficient Boulder Dam hydro-power to satisfy the Government demands.

The Metropolitan Water District, as a matter of fact, bound itself by firm contracts to pay for about 36 per cent of the firm power available at Boulder Dam—and the District agreed to pay for this large amount of hydro-power regardless of whether it actually needed or used the power. Thus the construction of Boulder Dam was brought about and made possible.

Citizens Acted in Good Faith

With construction of the dam thus assured, the people of the California cities which comprise the Metropolitan Water District went forward with plans to finance and build the Colorado River Aqueduct. In September 1931, the people of these District cities authorized by a majority of five to one a bond issue of $220,000,000 to finance the initial cost of the giant aqueduct system. These bonds are a first mortgage on all of the real assets of the people in the District cities. This heavy obligation was assumed in order to finance the building of an aqueduct 400 miles in length—an aqueduct which now is carrying water across mountains and desert wastes to supply the ever increasing needs of agriculture, industry, homes, and military installations on the semiarid coastal plain of Southern California.

Huge Job Accomplished

The job of building the Colorado River Aqueduct included the building of five huge pumping plants required to raise the water a total of 1600 feet before it can flow by gravity into a terminal reservoir and be ready for distribution to the industries, defense establishments and homes situated within the territory of the Metropolitan Water District. To operate the aqueduct pumping plants the District required electric power, and it was for this power that the District bound itself to pay for up to 36% of the total firm output from Boulder Dam. The District did not re-

quire any such large amount of power in its early days of operation, and still does not require any such quantity of power; but it nevertheless assured the building of Boulder Dam by contracting to pay for this power whether used or not.

People Have Not Faltered

In meeting this heavy obligation our people have never faltered. We had made that kind of contract with the United States in order to bring about the building of Boulder Dam. We had absolute confidence in the good faith of our Government to fulfill its end of the contracts, and we were willing to wait and to continue paying this high premium for insurance for our future protection.

War Efforts Advanced

Our first reward has been the great satisfaction of having this great surplus of electric power ready and waiting to serve and activate the giant war industries and military installations which became so vitally essential in Southern California when the massacre at Pearl Harbor plunged this country into war.

A Costly Guarantee

Our people have paid dearly for the guarantee we made to our Government in Washington to assure the repayment of the cost of Boulder Dam, but we will never regret the price we are paying if our Government honestly fulfills its end of the contract to make available to our people the Colorado River water essential to our region in the years ahead.

I have spoken of the heavy obligation that has been assumed by the communities within our Metropolitan Water District to bring about the construction of Boulder Dam. Please allow me to speak briefly regarding the financing of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Government Has Made a Profit

To finance the initial construction of the aqueduct, as I have stated, our people voted in 1931 to assume the heavy financial obligation of bonds in the amount of $220,000,000. Approximately $180,000,000 of these bonds were sold to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation at an initial interest rate of 5 per cent, later reduced to an average of about 4 per cent. These bonds have long since been sold by the R.F.C. on the public market at premiums which returned to the Government a net profit estimated to exceed $13,000,000. Thus, it can plainly be seen that the Colorado River Aqueduct has not been benefited by one dollar of Federal aid, but on the contrary has contributed heavily to the financial benefit of our Government's treasury.

Full Burden Accepted

Once more, permit me to state that our people do not regret their decision to assume the tremendous aqueduct bond obligation. It was essential that this obligation be assumed if the vitally strategic area on the South Coastal Plain of California is to go forward with an orderly and necessary program of development. Our people were ready and willing to take up the full burden of this obligation because they had utter faith in the sanctity and dependability of their Colorado River water contracts with the United States Government, contracts made pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Boulder Canyon Project Act which was adopted by Congress in 1928.

Insofar as the members of the Board of Directors were concerned, let me say that not one of them ever questioned the validity of our water contracts with the Government. It never occurred to any one of us that the time would come when our Government would not keep faith with its own people in the complete fulfillment of its pledged word to make the water available as required.

Imperative Need Recognized

Realizing the imperative need of our region for the Colorado River water, we enthusiastically advocated the approval of the aqueduct bond issue by our people, and they, in turn, as I have previously noted, authorized this bond issue by the decisive majority of five to one.

Incidentally, allow me to point out, that no member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District has ever received one dollar of remuneration for his time and services on that Board. It has been a civic enterprise of the highest order in which we have been proud as citizens of the United States to participate.

Completed at Right Time

The construction of the aqueduct was started in 1932, in the trough of the depression, when we were able to choose from the eminent engineers of the United States those best qualified to do this unprecedented job. And those engineers, in turn, were able to secure efficient assistants and provide jobs for 38,000 men at the highest wages of that day and under the best of working conditions.

The aqueduct was completed in June 1941—five months before Pearl Harbor. The citizens of the District are proud of this great engineering achievement—not only because it provides life-giving water, which is the prime necessity for the future development of farms and homes for our successors and for returning veterans in some of the most fertile valleys on God's earth—but because it has made possible the water and power for the gigantic defense plants which are producing planes and ships by the tens of thousands, and other implements of war—the prime necessity of the United States and our Allied Nations today.

A Permanent Necessity

I am quite sure, Mr. Chairman, that you and the other distinguished members of your committee will agree when I remind you that the end of this war will not eliminate the continuing need for naval and military installations and for the continuing operation of heavy industrial plants on the Pacific Coast. We have learned, belatedly, that the oceans no longer are effective barriers against aggressor nations. And, until some world organization far more tangible than any now in operation has been tried and proven, the United States in common prudence must maintain an adequate and ever ready Pacific Coast defense. Southern California is today and must surely remain a strategic area in this general zone of our Pacific defense.

The Last Water Hole

The Colorado River is the "last water hole" for Southern California. The proposed treaty, in giving to landowners in Mexico the Colorado River water which is vitally essential in the maintenance of an adequate defense in this area, I respectfully submit, reveals a shocking lack of foresight in a Nation which ought to have learned some bitter lessons since December 7, 1941.

No Faintness of Heart

President Roosevelt, in his inaugural address, said —"We may make mistakes. But they must never be mistakes which result from faintness of heart or abandonment of moral principle." It would be easy to make the mistake of ratifying this treaty, unless it were thoroughly studied against a background of all the facts. Such an examination brings out the moral issue to which I would direct your attention.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and other agencies here represented had no "faintness of heart" when they took upon themselves the building of Boulder Dam, the Colorado River Aqueduct, the All American Canal, and mortgaged their homes and farms and their children's homes to pay for them. I ask you if it would not be an "abandonment of moral principle" to break faith with such courageous citizenship?

Lives and Fortunes Sacrificed

The United States today is writing, with the blood of our sons and grandsons, across the broad expanse of the Pacific and on the battlefields of Europe, its belief in the principles of freedom, equality and justice for which American patriots of former generations sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

Not only for ourselves do we defend these principles, but for all mankind, and we hold the dream of a world order in which such ideals may ultimately be secured.

In these days of planning for world peace, does it not become our first responsibility to see that justice is administered at home, among the states of our own Union? For any sort of lasting peace must be founded on honor and integrity.

Moral Principles Abandoned

The injustice of giving to Mexico more water than that to which she is entitled—in open breach of contracts by the United States with its own citizens after they have in good faith conserved and planned the use of such waters for the benefit of our nation as a whole—is nothing short of an abandonment of moral principle.

Injustice more than any single evil, eats at the heart of mankind, and is the hardest to forget or forgive.

The United States is striving to build good will and friendship throughout the world. But real friendship is not made by the giving of material things. It is made by being the kind of individual or nation a neighbor can absolutely trust and depend upon. Good will can never be established by the expediency of injustice—even if the injustice is practiced "within the family."

Domestic Honor Comes First

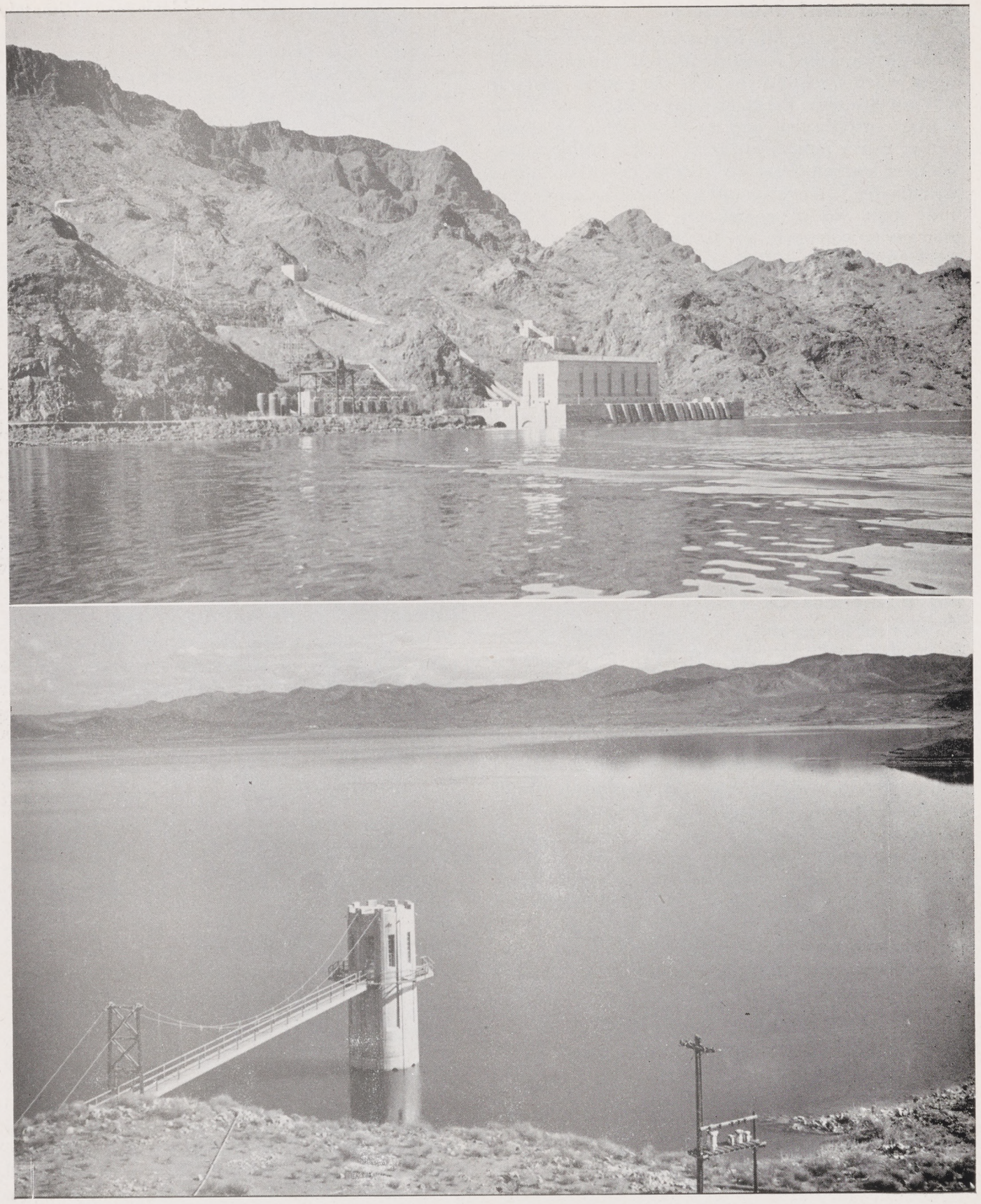
Foreign relations, I humbly submit, cannot be any better than the domestic policies on which they are founded. And no treaty is any better than the honor of the countries signing it.

You recall it was Germany that called written agreements "scraps of paper." We see the results today. When any nation, without due process of law, makes "scraps of paper" out of its own contracts it has taken a long step on the road to chaos.

Such abandonment of principle is hard to justify in the United States today—while our boys are dying to reestablish the principles of justice and humanity, essential to any civilized order.

Looking to the Future

For the crucial years ahead, when we shall be sacrificing ever more and more in the name of Democracy, Justice and Humanity, calling for the perfect unity and teamwork of every state in the Union, we can ill afford to plant the seeds of animosity between the States of California and Texas. And we should so guard the principle of Justice in our domestic and foreign policies that when we gather one day around a conference table with Mexico and our other good neighbors, to talk to and with them about a just and lasting peace for all the world, they may have no cause to mistrust our sincerity.



Intake Pumping Plant (above) and Lake Mathews on the Colorado River Aqueduct

Visible Evidence of a People's Faith in Their Government

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds filed with the Board of Directors in February, 1945, covering work done in January, 1945.)

Operation and Maintenance

General — The proposed Mexican water treaty required constant consideration of members of the staff, followed by attendance at hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate in Washington, D. C. during the latter part of the month.

The maximum power demand of Basic Magnesium, Inc. in January was 19,238 kw and total energy delivered amounted to 11,228,625 kwhr compared with 12,180,375 in December.

Parker Dam—Throughout the month, the water surface in Lake Havasu was held between elevations 446.1 and 446.6 feet. Discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam averaged 19,423 cubic feet per second compared with 19,160 in December.

Parker Power Plant—The District system was in parallel with the Parker power system except during the low load periods each night. Energy received from the Parker system amounted to 18,000 kwhr while energy delivered to the Parker system totaled 9,435,060 kwhr.

Main Aqueduct—Regular patrol and inspection of reservoirs, canal, siphons, and other aqueduct features, were continued. Light application of copper sulphate was made at Eagle Mountain sand trap and inlet channel, and at a few canal transitions.

Pumping Plants—No regular pumping was done during the month. Routine maintenance work was performed at all plants.

Distribution System—Usable storage at Lake Mathews on January 21 amounted to 76,827 acre feet with water level at elevation 1,342.65 feet. The decrease in storage in January was 1,128 acre feet and drop in water level 0.65 foot. At the softening and filtration plant water was softened from an average hardness of 364 ppm to 99 ppm. Flow through the plant averaged 21.5 cubic feet per second or 13,895,000 gallons per day, compared with 16,366,000 in December. Chemical, bacteriological, and plankton analyses of water samples from the main aqueduct and distribution system were continued. During the month softened water was delivered to Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Santa Monica and the Coastal Municipal Water District. Normal patrol and maintenance operations were performed on pipe lines and reservoirs.

Office Engineering and Design — In connection with the San Diego line authorized by the U. S. Government, preliminary designs were prepared of a diversion structure on Casa Loma siphon near the west portal of San Jacinto tunnel. Studies were continued relative to additional regulatory storage on the distribution system. A review was made of a proposal submitted by the Chino Basin Water Committee regarding prospective annexations in San Bernardino County. Specifications were prepared for purchase of synthetic zeolite for replenishment of exchange capacity in the zeolite units at the softening plant.

Hydrography—Meetings of the Colorado River Board of California and discussions of the proposed Mexican water treaty required much time prior to attendance at the Senate Committee hearings in Washington, D. C. Usable storage in Lake Mead on January 31 was 19,456,000 acre feet and the water surface was at elevation 1,161.27 feet or 60.13 feet below the top of the spillway gates. The decrease in storage was 855,000 acre feet and drop in water level 6.73 feet for the month. Discharge at Boulder Dam averaged 20,110 cubic feet per second compared with 19,461 in December.

Employment—In January, the personnel office filled 11 classified positions and recorded 12 terminations, 12 employment contracts, and 80 interviews.

Right of Way—One reverse lease was made in January. There are now in effect 3 leases, 40 reverse leases, 10 rentals and 3 reverse rentals. At the citrus groves, general cultivation was continued and the orange trees are being pruned.

Purchasing—The total expenditures covered by 280 purchase orders and 2 agreements issued in January amounted to approximately $11,400.00. Carload forwardings consisted of 1 car of chlorine and 36 cars of sodium chloride to the water softening plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to $826.05. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was $253,071.11.

Treaty Fight

(*Continued from Page* 1)

to be 18 for the treaty and 4 against, with one member not accounted for. The fight now moves to the Senate floor.

Those reported as voting for the treaty were Senators Connally (D), George (D), Wagner (D), Thomas (D) of Utah, Green (D) Barkley (D), Guffey (D), Tunnell (D), Lucas (D), Hill (D), Hatch (D), Capper (R), LaFollette (P), Vandenberg (R), White (R), Austin (R), and Wiley (R).

Joining forces with representatives of Colorado River water users from six of the seven basin states, four spokesmen from the Metropolitan Water District testified against the treaty during the course of the hearings. They were Chairman W. P. Whitsett, General Manager Julian Hinds, General Counsel James H. Howard and Hydrographic Engineer C. C. Elder.

In his testimony before the committee, Mr. Hinds presented the steps that have been taken by the District to put to use, through the Colorado River Aqueduct, the Colorado River water contracted to the District by the Federal Government. He drew attention to the fact that the Colorado River is the only remaining source of an adequate water supply for the entire south coastal area of California.

Mr. Howard forcefully pointed out in his testimony that ratification of the Mexican treaty would constitute a violation of a legislative compact and contract between the United States and California. This contract and compact, he reminded the committee, has been in force since 1929, and is one by which California, through the adoption by its Legislature of the Limitations Act, agreed to limit its use of Colorado River water to certain specified quantities in consideration of the Boulder Canyon Project Act containing the provision that all water conserved and stored by Boulder Dam is to be made available for use "exclusively within the United States." The Mexican treaty, he stressed, violates that important provision of the Boulder Act.

Mr. Elder, a recognized authority on the water resources of Western America, exposed in his testimony the fantastic claims of State Department witnesses that most of the 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water guaranteed to Mexico by the treaty would be made available in the form of "return water" following its use in Arizona.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Major Duke McConaghy

Major Duke McConaghy, formerly in the Purchasing Division, was in the office recently visiting old friends. He is now stationed at Santa Ana Base hospital convalescing from injuries sustained a year ago, when the bomber in which he was a passenger crashed on the Isle of Man. Six of the crew were killed, only the pilot and Duke surviving the crash. At present Duke is on furlough from the hospital and is living in Glendale with his wife, whom he married since leaving the District.

* * *

Word has just been received from Mrs. L. H. Henderson that her husband, Capt. "Ike" Henderson, is now in the Philippines, after having spent about 4 months in the hospital recuperating from a severe "jungle" cold. He is now reported to be completely recovered. Mrs. Henderson talked to Ike on Christmas night over a KFI broadcast. His new address is—836 Engineer Aviation Battalion, APO 70, care Postmaster, San Francisco.

* * *

A letter from N. F. "Nick" Crossley states that Normandy Base Headquarters is the general area where he was located for some time. Recently, he reports, he has been traveling about quite a bit, with several trips to Paris, and also into Belgium.

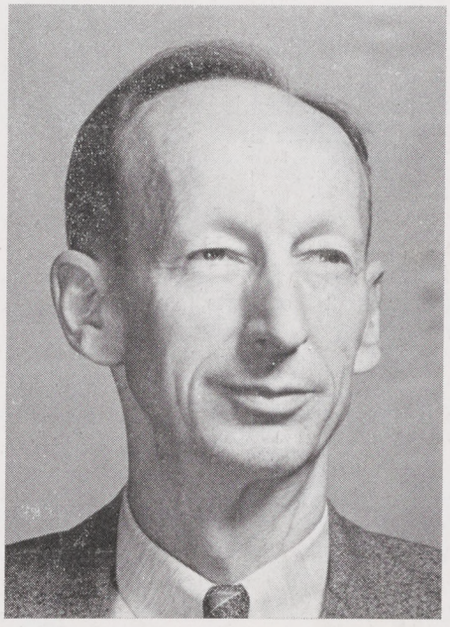
During the latter part of February, District employees in the field and office were preparing to carry through their Red Cross War Fund campaign in record style, as usual.

Properly proud of their established record in the high average of individual contributions, aqueducters were out to set a new mark. In 1943, M. W. D. employees made the highest average donation of any public employee group in this Southern California area. In 1944 they topped their 1943 donations by a substantial margin.

In his statement to members of the organization, General Manager Hinds said, "As we all know, the need is greater as the war progresses and greater demands are made upon the Red Cross both for the men at the front and their families at home."

* * *

Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Dave S. Blackhurst of the Distribution Division, who on Sunday evening, February 25, took as his bride Isabel Rose Berry of Pasadena. The ceremony was performed at the Pasadena Wedding Chapel. They will make their home in Glendale.



Way back there in 1925, when engineers were beginning to run tentative aqueduct lines out over 60,000 square miles of desert country, Ezra B. Rider went on the big job as a Civil Engineer. For several years, Engineer Rider, in addition to other important duties, has been the Editor of the District's annual reports.

Since 1932 Estelle McGee has been with the District's Purchasing Division. She has been a General Clerk for the past three years, and during that time has been first assistant to Purchasing Agent Putnam.

After more than 11 years of service with the District, Leo G. Fraser on February 10 resigned as Cook at Division 2 Headquarters to accept other work. Leo first came with the District back in November of 1933, going to Yellow Camp. Later he was Cook at Wide camp, then Division I, and since 1937 he has been located at Iron Mountain.

* * *

And from Saipan, Bill Black, formerly of Operations and Maintenance, writes that just in the nick of time for the holidays, he received the beautiful box the "MWD Gang" sent, and that it contributed a lot to an unexpectedly pleasant Christmas. He reports that he has been receiving the NEWS fairly regularly and keeping up with the old aqueduct gang, and says, "It will be a long time 'till I'm fortunate enough to work with as good an outfit again."

* * *

Of interest to many aqueducters is the news that Bob Speers is now Executive in charge of talent, writers and directors at Universal Studio. Bob was Publicity Writer for the District from 1931 to 1936, when he resigned to go to Universal.